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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 1 August 1947

SUBJECT Report of a Przemysl Citizen Imprisoned by Soviets.

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Following is a translation of statements made by a Przemyśl citizen after his release from a Soviet prison. The exprisoner's report was made before two witnesses, and was sworn by him to be truthful. The man had been kidnapped on 31 Dec 48 while traversing a street in Przemyśl. Three Soviet soldiers seized him, forced him into a waiting trolley, and drove him to the Polish frontier. Here he was turned over to two other soldiers who took him across the "green" frontier into Soviet territory and held him in their hut for questioning.

Interrogation of Prisoner

1. In this hut, I was questioned in the usual Soviet way at different times during the entire night. I was asked what I am doing now, what I did during the war, what people I know in Przemyśl, what they think about politics, etc. My answers, made at different times, were compared and noted in ink. They could not trip me because my answers were always true, and therefore, the same.
2. During this interrogation they called me "Nikolajczyk" which evidently has replaced "fascist" or "reactionary" as their term of opprobrium. I have never been active in any political or partisan work, so I must conclude that my kidnapping was done completely at random.
3. From the soldiers' hut, I was taken to Moscińska, Sambor, and the Drohobycz where I was supposed to be court-martialed—for what, I never did find out. Finally, I was imprisoned at Lwów. At all the prisons through which I passed, I was forced to sign a statement that I would never tell what I saw or was asked.

Prison Conditions at Lwow

4. Conditions in the Lwow prison are atrocious. Overcrowding is such that one cannot stretch his legs. I saw many women with children in the prison. Most prisoners have tuberculosis.

Polish Prisoners

5. There are many Poles in the Lwow prison. Most of them have been imprisoned for very minor offenses and are completely resigned, but some had hopes for this spring. They asked me if their ill-treatment was known in Poland, and why the Polish Government did nothing for them.

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6. Soviet doctors are conducting special experiments with these people to establish their resistance to cold. Findings determine whether a prisoner shall be sent to work in Siberia or elsewhere.
7. I was told that (a) bread is very scarce, and there is a famine in Russia as there is in Lwow; (b) the old frontier on the Zbrucz is sealed with barbed wire and crossing is very difficult.

Soviet Prisoners

8. There are also Soviet prisoners at Lwow - civilians, Soviet officers, and "Banderoway" who are condemned to terms of hard labor averaging 20 years.

Release from Lwow

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10. I was freed at the end of Feb 47. after we had handed out 70 thousand zlotys - as well as innumerable drinks. Graft was taken by the Soviet Mojenna Komenda, the UB, and the WOP.

-end-

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